RPA Provides Unique Value to Industry Supporters

RPA Offers Access to Nephrology Practice Thought Leaders from all Corners of the Country
- Guidance to industry partners seeking coverage for drugs and devices benefitting kidney patients; how to educate nephrology practices on the advantages of using their products; perform critical reviews in advance of Federal Agency consideration of products.

RPA Possesses Political Intelligence about National Policies and Legislation Affecting the Specialty
- Surveillance through Political Action Committee.
- Participation in AMA-led specialty meetings, ACP’s Council of Subspecialty Societies and Subspecialty Advisory Group on Socioeconomic Affairs, provides insights on legislative issues as well as regulatory policies affecting general medicine and nephrology.
- Rich network of contacts informs RPA senior staff about macro-level policy trends and their impact on nephrology practice.

RPA Drives Legislative and Regulatory Policies Affecting Quality and Safe Kidney Care
- RPA’s Keeping Kidney Patients Safe website is cited in the CMS ESRD Conditions for Coverage (CFC) Interpretive Guidance for Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement.
- RPA is acknowledged as the driving force behind the legislative provision allowing services to be provided to Medicare beneficiaries with acute kidney injury (AKI) in outpatient dialysis facilities. RPA’s position paper on AKI influenced subsequent CMS policy in this area.
- RPA’s position paper on medical director responsibilities shaped the development of the Interpretive Guidance for the ESRD CFC and has facilitated compliance with Federal requirements governing dialysis facility medical director activities.
- As the lead nephrology organization in physician measure development, RPA ensures that quality metrics in kidney disease care are feasible and not unduly burdensome to practitioners. RPA’s Kidney Quality Improvement Registry, the only nephrology-specific Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR), facilitates nephrologists’ participation in the MACRA MIPS program, and provides a vehicle to monitor patient outcomes and practitioner performance.

RPA Impacts CPT Code Creation and Valuation
- Represents nephrology at AMA’s CPT Editorial Panel where Medicare Part B services are defined and revised; and at the AMA’s Relative Value Update Committee (RUC) where all codes are valued for payment.
- RPA sponsored a new physician service from its initial acceptance as a CPT Category III (investigational) code to Category I (active) code, to valuation by the RUC and inclusion in the 2016 Medicare Fee Schedule.

RPA Influences Payment and Coverage Policies
- RPA works with CDC on ICD-10 codes for kidney disease related diagnoses.
- RPA has collaborated with CMS on the creation and refinement of the monthly capitated payment (MCP) codes for nephrologist services provided to ESRD patients.
- RPA works with Medicare Carrier Medical Directors to develop local coverage policies.